

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-13 are pending. Claim 8 has been amended. No claim has been canceled, or added. No new matter has been added.

Claim 8 was objected to for informalities. Claim 8 has been amended.

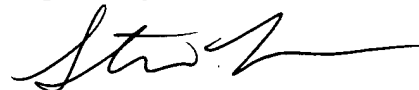
Claim 1, 2, 4, and 6-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Hobbs et al. and Tsunashima et al. Applicants traverse the rejection. Tsunashima et al. was filed on September 20, 2001 and is not prior art over the present application. The present application claims priority to JP Application No. 2001-008301, which was filed on January 16, 2001. An English translation of the JP Application No. 2001-008301 is enclosed along with a declaration by the translator. Therefore, the above claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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